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conformational defect causes the phenotypic defect, comprising contacting a first cell that expresses said conformationally defective target protein with an amount of a protein stabilizing agent that is effective to improve the conformational defect, thereby improving the phenotypic defect of the first cell in comparison with a second cell having the same conformationally defective target protein and phenotypic defect, wherein the second cell is not contacted with the protein stabilizing agent, and wherein the protein stabilizing agent is an amino acid or derivative thereof, including glycine, alanine, proline, taurine, betaine, octopine, glutamate, sarcosine, gamma-aminobutyric acid, and trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO).--

**REMARKS**

**Status:**

Claims 23-34 are currently pending in the application, claims 1-22 being canceled, claims 23-34 being added and no claims being amended herein. Support for new claims 23-34 can be found at least in claims 1-22 as originally filed and in the specification on page 1, line 28 through page 2, line 14, page 5, line 6, page 14, lines 4-16, page 15, lines 26-30, page 18, line 19 through page 19, line 12 and Examples 1 and 2. The specification is amended to update the information on the priority applications. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,270,954 B1. Claims 11-12, 14-15, and 19-22 were rejected on the grounds that they were unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,360 based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

**35 U.S.C. §101:**

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly claiming the same invention as claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,270,954 B1. Applicants have canceled these claims herein and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

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PATENT

**Obviousness-type double patenting:**

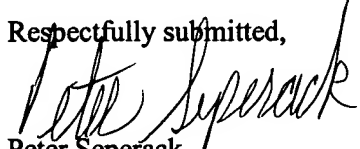
Claims 11-12, 14-15, and 19-22 were rejected on the grounds that they were unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,360 based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting. Applicants have canceled these claims herein and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

*Page 1, paragraph beginning at line 6:*

--This application is a continuation of co-pending USSN 09/291,406,  
filed April 13, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,270,954 B1, which is a continuation in  
part of USSN 08/838,691, filed April 9, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,900,360, which  
[and it] claims priority to [from] U.S. provisional application no. 60/015,155, filed  
April 10, 1996 all [both] of which are incorporated by reference for all purposes. The  
government may own certain rights in the present invention pursuant to grants from  
the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (R613) and NIH (AG-10770).--

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